

Attorney Docket No. MI/228

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Allen et al.

Serial No.: 10/713,699

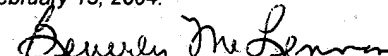
Filed: November 14, 2003

For: Improved Strings for Musical Instruments

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

) Group Art Unit:
) Examiner:

I hereby certify that this
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1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on
February 13, 2004.


Beverly McLennan

February 13, 2004
(date of mailing document)

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
2. Information Disclosure Citation (3 page2)
3. References (33)

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND IS REQUESTED TO CHARGE ALL FILING FEES DUE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.16 AND ALL OTHER FEES DUE UNDER SECTION 1.17 DURING THE PENDENCY OF THIS APPLICATION TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 07-1729.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Boland, 36,090
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
51 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(302) 738-4880

Date: February 13, 2004



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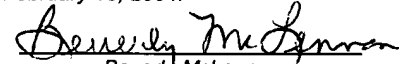
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

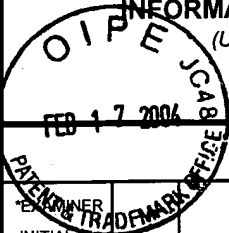
In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,


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W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(302) 738-4880

Date: February 13, 2004

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> </div> </div>				ATTY DOCKET NO. MI/228		SERIAL NO. 10/713,699		
				Allen et al.				
				FILING November 14, 2003		GROUP		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		2,049,769	08/04/36	C. B. Gray	84	199		
		3,826,171	07/30/74	James Kaar	84	297		
		3,953,566	04/27/76	Robert Gore	264	288		
		3,962,153	06/08/76	Robert Gore	260	2.5		
		4,063,674	12/20/77	Stone et al.	228	173		
		4,096,227	06/20/78	Robert Gore	264	210		
		4,187,390	02/05/80	Robert Gore	174	102		
		4,326,444	04/27/82	Donald Markley	84	297		
		4,339,499	07/13/82	Tappe et al.	428	373		
		4,382,358	05/10/83	Tappe et al.	57	243		
		4,383,465	05/17/83	Conklin Jr.	84	199		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		DE 3133231A	3/1983	Germany			✓	
		DE 4019334A1	11/1992	Germany			✓	
		DE 33260061	1/1985	Germany			✓	
		GB 2187217A	9/1987	Great Britain				
		DE 963830	5/1957	Germany - Claims only			✓	
OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>								
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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FILING

November 14, 2003

GROUP

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*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,539,228	09/03/85	Lazarus	427	180	
	5,009,142	04/23/91	Kurtz	84	454	
	5,026,591	06/25/91	Henn et al.	428	198	
	5,107,852	04/28/92	Davidson et al.	128	772	
	5,535,658	07/16/96	Kalosdian	84	297	
	5,610,328	03/11/97	Aladin et al.	84	297	
	5,801,319	09/01/98	Hebestreit et al.	84	297	
	5,883,319	03/16/99	Hebestreit et al.	84	297	
	5,907,113	05/25/99	Hebestreit et al.	84	297	
	6,248,942	06/19/01	Hebestreit et al.	84	297	
	6,348,616	02/19/02	Parker et al.	84	297	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	WO 90/01766	2/1990	PCT			✓	
	GB 690,031	4/1953	UK				
	JP 63182441	7/1998	Japan - Abstract only			✓	
	JP 88057799	11/1988	Japan - Abstract only			✓	
	JP 6-50089	7/1994	Japan			✓	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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DATE CONSIDERED

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GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,528,709	03/04/03	Hebestreit et al.	84	297	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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